

WHAT THE REALLY WELL DRESSED WOMEN WILL WEAR

New Clothes Are Not as New
as Rumor Led Us to Believe.
Fabrics and Colors Are Gorgeous

By ANNE RITTENHOUSE.
THESE are fascinating times in fashion. If one could take a day off to spend on the piers of the North River and try to memorize the number of trunks and boxes that are filled with new frocks which are dutiable then one would believe that all the world had gone mad over clothes. It is the time of the year when the customs inspectors wish they had volunteered for any other service that would give them a living; they are deluged with skirts and blouses and hats and wraps and materials until their dreams must be that they let a new Calot model slip through on half duty.

All day long there are verbal battles between inspector and buyer as to the amount of lace on one frock, whether tinsel used in the brocade or the embroidery should be dutiable as metal and whether the strips of fur on a Paquin evening gown were really purchased with the gown or taken over by the buyer from America to be added to the gown in Paris and thereby reduce its cost.

Men look like Lilliputians among the

after they had secured it at great price and how soon they could get their gowns through the Custom House and rush them to the shops and dressmakers with whom they were connected.

And, mind you, none of these sales of clothes were bought by women for their own wear, as critics would have us suppose; hundreds of these frocks, hats and wraps will not be worn by any one except the manikins who display them at the American openings.

They are bought as guides to fashion. They will be used by the designers for inspiration and by the shops for advertisements and many of them will be sold in May for less than was paid for them in Paris.

New Clothes Not Very New.

One of the comforts about the gowns of to-day is appreciated only by the economical woman, and even she is not believed when she states her opinion that one has rarely been able to wear clothes so long without their getting unfashionable. We are in a time of change in everything, including fashions, and one is impelled to believe that no gown or



The Small Hat Is the Sensation of the Season

The sartorial sensation is the tiny hat, with its exaggerated high trimming. At a distance women look as though their heads were uncovered and gaily ornamented with bold and brilliant pieces of ribbon, tulle, plumage and roses.

This sudden reduction in the size of headgear is amazing, and also distressing, to some women who believe they only look well in hats with car-wheel brims.

Well, they must learn to wear small ones or be out of the

fashion, for the huge hat already looks as antiquated as the willow plume—its one time ornament.

No one shape is advanced as the only shape. Each leading milliner is putting out a dozen or more varieties and the small milliners are adding to these.

The artist who made the sketches on this page has caught the five distinctive shapes of the season; the one above is of black tulle drawn to the top of the crown and then spread into many loops.

every garment invented for the female of the species.

The making of clothes has become one of the big businesses of the world, and the millions of dollars that are bound up in every aspect of the trade is something for a mathematician and financier to work out. All these things work in a

and see how easily and with confidence you have worn the same clothes for two years, if you have kept them in good order. Skirts are still narrow, sleeves are long or short, coats are of varying lengths and cut away in front or fastened on a straight line. The George Washington collar is still as fashionable as the low

petticoats after we have banished that garment for two years or limited it to a width of dark jersey silk for morning and a wisp of pink chiffon for evening.

The Balkan Jacket.

It was only natural that the Place Vendôme and the Rue de la Paix should turn to the Balkans for their new inspiration in garments. Paris is full of the news just in and its dress designers have always reflected the events of the day.

In our generation we have seen every stirring event come out later in cloth. Jean Worth says that a student of dress would know the history of the world, for all fashions have been decided by political events. Worth himself is a most interested student of clothes in their relation to the crises of the world, and he considers the study of the latter as of vital importance to his profession.

To hear him talk on this one subject, which is dear to his heart, is to get a new viewpoint on fashion and instantly imbue it with the dignity and the significance that the layman does not give it. True to his own history, therefore, the fashion of Paris will reflect the Bulgarian-Turkish war.

The newest jacket of the day is called the Balkan coat. It is daring, somewhat crude and quite brilliant. The first one that came over is of dark blue satin cloth, cut off below the waist, without sleeves and without fastenings in front. This sounds demure, but in the trimming lies the Balkan touch. It is a bright scarlet band that extends around the neck, down the front and around the hem. The lining is of Balkan silk, which means a palette of gorgeous colors.

This jacket is worn with a one piece frock of brilliantly figured foulard, a material which is in first fashion, by the way, because of its suppleness and its bold brilliant pattern.

All these jackets will be worn over contrasting gowns. There will be no attempt to match up the colors or even the lining to the frock. It is interesting to watch conservative women take up with these wondrous combinations of color, for it shows the half hidden feeling in every female heart to indulge in a riot of red and purple when she gets a good chance, and she gets this chance in the new linings.

Of course, being demure and conservative, she would not dare to wear a gown as gorgeous, but she feels that her taste and reputation are safe and her fancy indulged when she chooses the most riotous colored design for the inside of her jacket.

One of the capricious expressions of the Balkan jacket is a slightly full affair that drops to four inches below the normal waist line and is gathered there into a three inch belt that snugly fits the figure. This elongation of the waist line was not even reached in Elizabethan times, and from the present outlook it promises to be popular. It will prove quite a fetching fashion for young girls' clothes at seaside and mountains.

White crash suits look immensely well made with coats of this kind over a frilly lining which shows apples, pears and peaches in brilliant colors on a blue or bronze surface. A coat that has such a belt fastens up the side with large pearl buttons and has a high rolling collar lined with the brilliant silk.

The fashion for a sleeveless jacket

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Balkan Jacket Is a New Garment and Bulgarian Colors Will Rule. Attractive Frocks of Watered Silk

is new and interesting. It gives one a chance to indulge in a clever color combination and at the same time it provides a lightweight wrap for those who are in cool climates.

One hopes that it will not be taken up as a substitute for a regulation jacket. If it is worn over a skirt of another fabric and color with a white shirtwaist it will form part of a lamentable costume.

You remember that the attractive little jumper blouse was entirely spoiled by being put to such uses. It was worn without regard to the color or fabric of the blouse beneath and the consequence was that it went out of fashion with a bad name. By the way, as it has been returned to fashion this spring every one should take warning so that the same offense will not be committed against it.

The Return of Moire.

No one heralded the approach of watered silk with any degree of emphasis and women were rather surprised to find out how many gowns and wraps are coming over from Paris in this always fascinating fabric. It has none of the stiffness of other days, but has taken to itself suppleness and sheen, as foulard has,

and the two materials will have things much their own way this spring.

The new colors look well in moire. There are gowns in it of dull burgundy red, in sulphur, in japonica pink and in copper brown. The latter color is used in a most attractive coat suit made with a draped skirt, tight and slender, and a cutaway Eton jacket with straight front and a turnover collar. The sleeves were long and fitted to the arms, flaring over the wrists.

The blouse was a jumper of the copper moire with an under blouse of self-colored tulle touched here and there with flat Balkan designs of bright light blue beads. There was a tiny hat made of satin in the same shade of copper as the suit and its only trimming was a crown band of two inch blue velvet ribbon finished with a loose bow and two ends at the back which hung to the shoulders.

Quaint little coats are made of white moire to wear over gowns of white lingerie or colored material in light weight. These little wraps are gathered to shallow hip yokes and held in half way between the hips and knees by a band of white rabbit which extends up the front and edges the deep cape collar, which is cut to a sharp point at the back.



The woman who adopts this fashionable shape must wear her locks well over her ears or the effect will be grotesque. The hat is of bronze pictorial straw with three peacock feathers pointing to the back, caught in front with a bow of bronze ribbon.

WHAT ONE CAN BUY IN THE SHOPS

SILVER napkin clips, for use instead of napkin rings, are made in the form of initials. They are about two inches square and clip over the sides of the folded napkin. They are neat, inconspicuous and serve to identify the napkins more easily than rings do. They are sold for 75 cents each.

Small chests of boxes, which slide in and out like bureau drawers, and are marked with such emblems as shoe buttons, glove buttons, pins and other toilet accessories or with rubber bands, postage stamps and pens, are sold filled with candies. When the different compartments are emptied of their sweet contents they can be used on dressing table or desk.

An egg holding set in nickel and porcelain on a glass and wicker tray costs \$18. The set consists of six egg cups, and a cooker. The cooker is egg shaped, all of nickel, and contains a rack for the eggs. Beneath it is a spirit lamp. The egg cups—six of them—are of porcelain set in nickel standards. The wicker sides of the oval tray are decorated with china flowers.

Real Chinese mandarin jackets are sold with a guarantee that they have been

properly sterilized and fumigated. They can be used either for negligee wear or for wear as evening coats, for carriage, opera or the theatre. Some of them have worn spots which, apparently, are supposed only to add to their value. These jackets, excepting for the fact that they would always be discarded to some persons because they had been worn before, are even more attractive than their Eastern mode prototype. There is something about their coloring which seems only to have improved with time and wear—something which cannot be imitated.

Small stiff paper tables, three or four inches high, with daintily carved legs suggestive of the days of Queen Anne, and even holding a painted vase of flowers, are used for place cards. The frame is written across the white paper top of the little table.

Place cards for a bride's luncheon show hand painted figures of the different members of the bridal party and the bride's family in the styles of 1860. One card shows the bride herself in all the dignity of hoops and broad veil. Another shows the bridegroom, bowing gallantly. Other cards show the bride's attendants in quaint ruffled frocks, the bride's mother, her trunk, her handboxes, ribbon tied and gaily colored, and last the old maids, who, fearfully, are packing a bonnet into a hat box.



Redfern Corsets

Insure an Attractive Figure

THE Spring models were designed to reflect at its best the dress mode of the season. They effect the precise waist-line needed, and are snug enough to support the figure and to give a graceful but slightly curved slope of the hip.

There's comfort in such a corset—both mental and physical. One breathes and moves almost unconscious of the figure-improvement.

The modiste who requires a Redfern as the basis of the gown she builds has a reason for her insistence—*she knows the fashionable figure so insured will make her work all the more satisfactory.*

Varying models suiting individual figures found at all high-class stores.

\$3.50 to \$15.00



Hat with black straw brim and round crown of tomato red silk, with single black fanfare at back.

colossal piles of women's apparel which they must inspect, analyze, fix a price upon and quarrel about until every one's patience is exhausted and the very word "fashion" is anathema.

One cannot judge of fashions in such a scene. An expert may not be able to get more than a glimmering idea of whether skirts are narrow, bodices tight fitting, sleeves long or materials rough. One day of watching clothes pulled out and put back is enough to give one mental indigestion.

The wonder is how the buyers themselves can stand the strain. They have been fighting these battles for fifteen hours a day in Paris since February 12, when the smaller houses began to show spring fashions; their only respite was on the steamer coming across, and even then they were making notes of what they had bought, at what price, how much material they had on hand to copy each gown, whether such a model would fail

that is wearable for more than two months after purchasing because the shops and newspapers and magazines have focussed the limelight on every whim in women's apparel.

Time was when fashions were not exploited as a means of advertising or as decoys to shops that held out many other attractions, and a newspaper would compare a foreign correspondent for going to the expense of cabling daily news about the return of the pannon or the recrudescence of the ruffe. To-day the foreign correspondents in Paris and along the Riviera are censured for not doing this.

The fashion news is now an important part of every newspaper, and trained experts are put in touch with the Paris dressmakers at great expense merely to give a reading public the daily and weekly news concerning clothes. All this has stirred the imagination and created a lively and stimulating interest in



None but an extremist who dresses smartly should attempt this hat, yet it will add distinction to any costume. It has a narrow gray straw brim and an oddly arranged crown of gray silk pulled into two upstanding loops lined with yellow and blue figured silk.

circle and the designers must constantly design new things, large or small, if they would gratify the curiosity of the public and, worse still, the demands of the women who have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into this game of fashion.

This is the mental, financial and trade aspect and it is natural that the public should jump to the conclusion that unless a woman follows every new fashion of the days she is ill dressed. Fortunately, the contrary is true. Its reason may be found in the simple fact that as long as the silhouette remains the same in fashion the rest of the game is more play.

By silhouette one means more than merely a fashionable figure; it means the absence of bulges and curves in certain places and the emphasizing of straight lines or the absence of them. For four years fashion has remained true to a certain silhouette, and it is not of grave importance as to whether or not a woman follows one accepted method of obtaining it if she only clings to it. So the constant parading of new ideas does not mean the elimination of the old ones.

Look back over your own wardrobe

turnover one, waists are high, drapery is discreetly used. Any one of these things or all of them together keep a woman well dressed.

Of course one must admit that human nature wants the new caprice because it becomes tired of what it has, and therefore it likes to feel that it is dressed according to the day. But it is not necessary to wear the Turkish sash, the Balkan jacket, the Russian blouse and the lowered amulet.

There is more balm in Gilead for the woman who waits to get further wear out of her clothes in the fact that all the sales and trunks of new clothes on the North River piers do not contain startling changes in fashion, although they do hold some very attractive things and we shall all make use of them and wear them as soon as the sap begins to run in the trees.

It is rather comforting to all of us that these clothes are not markedly different from what we own and that they do not present a puzzling new problem in dress or demand a new kind of corset. They do not even impel us to go out and buy



Hat of black and white straw with gathered facing of Chinese blue satin and cord of black satin, ending in immense bows at the back which are pulled out at the sides.